

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 27, 1864

NUMBER 202.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY

EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
Slone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

An Army correspondent of the New York World gives a dreadful account of the destruction of property caused by the soldiers of Gen. Sheridan in his recent retreat through the Valley of Virginia. He says the scenes there have only increased the intensity of feeling, and especially embittered the females. The following is a part of the letter: "Along valley, in which, from the Potomac to Staunton, there is no law nor safety, the scourge of battle is a monthly episode. All the horror, all the sacrifice of war knocks at the doors of every mansion on the way. Property and life are things of chance. People make few plans for the future.—To-morrow may shatter them forever. Marriage is little thought of. All marriageable men are under arms, and marriageable women let them go with little murmur. There is no use in murmuring. War is the one great passion to which both sexes are alike devoted, and for which both are ready to make any sacrifice. These women seem to have tacitly accepted the fact that until the war is over courtship is a mockery that had better not be thought of. The maiden who says good-bye to her lover, makes up her mind for the worst that can befall. Death is the rival of love, and death, nine times out of ten, is conqueror. Is it strange, then, that we who seek for tenderness in the hearts of these women must seek deep? Wrong as is the cause, it has a more widespread, and a bitterer, deeper devotion among the masses in this region than has ours."

The New York Tribune states that Mr. Stanton has ordered "that all slaves brought the several recruiting rendezvous in the several slave States and found physically disqualified for military service, and who do not desire to return to their masters but seek military protection, shall not be rejected, but enlisted and mustered into the United States service with a view to transfer to the Quartermaster's Department. Quartermasters are also ordered not to forward the men until they are properly transferred by order of the War Department."

A negro preacher, or spouter, in a church in Boston, has been holding forth on the subject of the negroes enlisting, advising them not to do so, declaring that they have been "robbed, cheated, &c." Some of the Northern papers speak in indignant terms of the "impudence of this fellow," and want to know what the "negroes will say or do next?"

A "conflict of authority has arisen between Gov. Curtin, of Pa., and the U. S. military authorities, in relation to the appointment of officers of the Pennsylvania Artillery.

The army correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, who has been with the Federal army in various parts of the South writes as follows:—"All agree in representing the Confederacy to be agriculturally in a most flourishing condition. The whole land is fat with corn and plenteous pork of corn, while negroes are huddled in only less abundance than mules and horses. The region which they penetrated is level and exceedingly fertile; the women are described as no longer the gaunt, sallow, whining creatures which we see in northern Georgia, but bitterly defiant and hostile toward the Yankees; but the men are absolutely swept out of the country. The vast tracts, stretching mile after mile, unbroken by the roadside, formerly devoted to cotton, now flourish with corn—the Government allows only a quarter of an acre of cotton per hand.—Georgia alone has enough corn in cultivation to subsist the whole Rebel army for a year. They found considerable old corn and plenty of pork stored in cellars in bulk. At Madison they destroyed five hundred sacks of genuine Rio coffee and large quantities of Rebel shoes made of stout cotton cloth. In short, the Rebels have, of imported luxuries, but little to spare, but of the substantials—the material for sturdy muscle and the basis of hard fighting—they have an abundance."

A movement has been set on foot by prominent abolitionists in the North to induce Mr. Lincoln and General Fremont to withdraw their names as Presidential candidates, with a view to calling a new convention to nominate a new man. General Fremont in reply to this invitation, does not feel at liberty to withdraw his name without the consent of the Convention that nominated him, and the Republican committee, which met a day or two since at Washington, decided that the nomination of Mr. Lincoln should be sustained. Gen. Fremont in his letter says:—"Much has been said about peace. You will excuse me if I say what I understand by it: For me, peace signifies the integral establishment of the Union without slavery, because slavery is the source of all our political dissensions, and because the institution itself is condemned by the enlightened, liberal spirit of the age.—These are to be the essential conditions of peace."

The Ohio State Journal announces that General Sherman has made a movement looking to the capture of Macon, Georgia. The twenty-third Federal army corps, commanded by General Schofield, is said to have been despatched on this expedition on the 16th inst., and carried with them fifteen days rations.

Charles Fenton Beavers, of Loudoun county, Va., belonging, it is stated, to Col. Moseby's command, who was tried by Court Martial, in Washington, and convicted of "being a spy and violating his oath of allegiance" was hung at the Old Capitol prison yesterday.

The New York Times says:—"The National Intelligencer persists in maintaining that President Lincoln stands pledged, not only by the letter "to whom it may concern," but also by his emancipation proclamation, not to receive or consider any proposition for peace which does not embrace the abandonment of slavery as well as the restoration of the Union. It holds that he is bound to prosecute the war for the abolition of slavery, even after its prosecution ceases to be necessary for the restoration of the Union.—We do not believe that Mr. Lincoln is so pledged by his antecedent or by his declarations—nor do we believe that his practical conduct of the Government will be guided by such a theory. If Jefferson Davis should offer, on behalf of the men in arms under him against the Union, to return to his allegiance to the Constitution and government of the United States, we believe that President Lincoln would thereupon stop the war. We do not believe that he would continue it for an hour longer, for the abolition of slavery for any other purpose."

Liberian commodities are beginning to be known in business circles, and owing to their intrinsic quality to command very high prices. Recent intelligence from Monrovia reports constant material progress and enterprise, and enlarged trade and commerce. A vessel lately arrived at New York, with, it is stated, forty thousand pounds of "Liberia-Mocha" coffee. Some of this, of superior size and flavor, sold at seventy cents per pound. Sugar in considerable quantities is, also now, imported from Liberia.

The New York Albion thinks that the recent operations of Admiral Farragut in Mobile bay, are probably the most notable for their skill and bravery of any Federal naval exploits during the war, and that his lashing his vessels together and taking his station on the main top will be remembered as displaying courage and seamanship. All the Northern papers are warm in their praise of Admiral Farragut.

It was only yesterday that the Army correspondents of the Northern papers stated that the troops digging the canal at Dutch Gap, below Richmond were to be withdrawn. The steamer Dictator arrived at Washington yesterday from City Point reports that "the canal across Dutch Gap is going on prosperously, and the men engaged have not been molested for two or three days." It appears to be impossible to get the truth of anything nowadays.

The losses in the fifth corps on the Weldon road in the battles of Friday and Sunday are now estimated at not less than five thousand men. As Parke's corps is said to have also lost some nine hundred men, and as other portions of the line suffered more or less severely, the aggregate must have been quite heavy, and attests the severity of the fighting.